

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 4, 2013

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### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SCHOOLS TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2013

**Indian River County, FL**—Schools in Indian River County will be joining schools around the country and world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 9, 2013. Students from local schools will be walking to school on Wednesday, along with parents, teachers and community leaders in support of this event.

Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking to school, as well as emphasize the importance of everyday issues such as the need to increase physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community. In the U.S., International Walk to School Day is expected to include 5,000 schools from all 50 States, and walkers from the U.S. will join children and adults in 40 countries around the world. Safe Routes to School walking program called the "Walking School Bus" is funded by a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation.

Walkers will be supported in their walking efforts by their school and community partners who will be joining in the walks. Each school will have a representative present at the walk along with representatives from: Indian River County Sheriff's Office (IRCSO), Vero Beach Police Department (VBPD), Sebastian Police Department, Fellsmere Police Department, Indian River County's Comptroller's Office, Florida Department of Health in Indian River County (DOH-Indian River), and Indian River County government. The representatives from supporting law enforcement agencies will provide a few words on safety while students, parents and other community leaders put on their safety gear to "model" a walking school bus. At the end of the walk, parents and children will receive information on safety and future "Walking School Bus" programs. Parents are encouraged to ask their schools about this countywide event.

This year, 13 schools in Indian River County are participating:

Citrus Elementary	Start Time: 8:00 AM, Start Location: Skate Factory parking lot, 485 27 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Vero Beach, 32968. Walk to school with PE Teacher Ms. Nicole Del Tufo, IRCSO Captain Rick Lane, IRCSO Deputies, County Public Works Director Chris Mora and Healthy Communities Healthy People Program Coordinator Tina Zayas
Vero Beach Elementary	Start Time: 7:45 AM, Start Location: Vero Beach Boys & Girls Club, 1729 17 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Vero Beach, 32960. Walk to school with PE Teacher Mr. Jim Batory, IRCSO Chief Spencer, IRCSO Deputies and DOH-Indian River Administrative Assistant Stacy Haas



Highlands Elementary	Start Time: 7:45 AM, Start Location: Vero Beach Highlands Clubhouse, 625 Highland Dr SW, Vero Beach, 32962. Walk to school with PE Teacher Mr. Zach Sanford, IRC SO Captain Strickland, IRC SO Deputies, and Indian River County Safe Routes to School Coordinator Andy Sobczak
Rosewood Elementary	Start Time: 7:45 AM, Start Location: Unitarian Universalist Church, 1590 27 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Vero Beach, 32960. Walk to school with Principal Deborah Dillon, VBPD Officer John Morrison and IRC SO DDC Ryan Haffield, Indian River County MPO Director Phil Matson
Beachland Elementary	Start Time: 8:15 AM, Start Location: Riverside Theater parking lot, 3250 Riverside Park Dr., Vero Beach, 32963. Walk to school with PE Teacher Ms. Vickie Fielder, VBPD Chief D. Currey and VBPD Officer M. DeWitt
Sebastian Elementary	Start Time: 7:45 AM, Start Location: Sebastian Post Office, 1290 Main St. Sebastian, 32958. Walk to school with PE Teacher Paula Essig, Sebastian PD Chief Morris and Sebastian PD Officer A. Penn
Pelican Island Elementary	Start Time: 7:45 AM, Start Location: Schumann Tennis Courts (Schumann Rd.) Sebastian, 32958. Walk to school with PE Teacher Susan Bernhard and Sebastian PD Officer Marcinik
Liberty Magnet Elem.	Start Time: 1:30 PM, Start Location: School grounds 6850 81st St, Vero Beach, 32967 (assembly in school cafeteria). Walk to school with PE Teacher Ken Barrett, IRC SO Deputies and Comptroller Harry Hall
Treasure Coast Elementary	Start Time: 8:20 AM, Start Location: School grounds 8955 85 <sup>th</sup> St, Sebastian, 32958 (assembly in school cafeteria). Walk to school with Principal Kelly Baysura, IRC SO DDC Darin Jones and IRC SO Deputies
Imagine School	Start Time: 7:30 AM, Start Location: First Church of God, 1105 58 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Vero Beach, 32966. Walk to school with Principal Chris Rock, IRC SO DDC Mark Porter, IRC SO Deputies and DOH-Indian River Nursing Director Rose Parker
Gifford Middle	Start Time: 7:15 AM, Start Location: Corner of 35 <sup>th</sup> Ave and 45 <sup>th</sup> St, Vero Beach, 32967. Walk to school with Principal Roxanne Decker, IRC SO Lt. Chuck Kirby, IRC SO Deputies and Assistant Comptroller Kathryn Parker
Fellsmere Elementary	Start Time: 7:45 AM, Start Location: Boys and Girls Club of Fellsmere, 22 South Orange St, Fellsmere, 32948. Walk to school with PE Teachers Shannon Guillen and Emily DiMattei, and Fellsmere Police Department Chief Keith Touchberry
Dodgertown Elementary	Start Time: 8:10 AM, Start Location: Northside Agape Ministries Church, 3790 45 <sup>th</sup> St, Vero Beach, 32967. Walk to school with PE Teacher Mr. Methany and IRC Sheriff Deryl Loar

For additional information about this local event, contact Andy Sobczak: 772-226-1518 or Tina Zayas: 772-794-7400, ext 2700. For program information, visit:

- International Walk to School in the USA: [www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org)
- National Center for Safe Routes to School: [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org)
- International Walk to School: [www.iwalktoschool.org](http://www.iwalktoschool.org)

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